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IN THIS ISSUE

News from the Regions
News from the School of Information Management, Dalhousie University
News from the Nova Scotia Community College Library & Information Technology Program
Nova Scotia Provincial Library News
Hot Tips and Updates

COLUMNS

LINKed
Professional Column

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Automated Library System

Staff are working well with the new Unicorn automated system from Sirsidynix. Staff and public have been eagerly awaiting the return of Collection Exchange, which has not been available during the migration from MultiLIS to Unicorn. The Collection Exchange module enables AVRL to refresh the collection on the shelf at each of its locations by moving materials from branch to branch on a regular schedule. Sirsidynix has adopted this unique MultiLIS feature, and re-written the module for Unicorn. AVRL began a full exchange of collections in February.

Community Access Program (CAP)

The CAP regional working groups throughout Nova Scotia were very fortunate to have a Fall/Winter Youth program again this year. Through this program, youth were hired to assist CAP sites for January & February, 2006. AVRL has five youth employed through this program. These youth delivered one-on-one computer tutorials, children's programming and work on special projects.

Conference Attendance

As Vice-President of the Nova Scotia Library Association, Charlotte Janes attended the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference in Toronto, January 2006. The conference registration, flight and hotel

were paid by the Ontario Library Association for presidents and vice-presidents of library associations across Canada. This conference provided an excellent opportunity to keep up to date with new library related technologies. There were more than 300 workshops offered.

Branch Services

The Manga Art contest, offered in conjunction with Inside Story and Mad Hatter bookstores, was a huge success. Over 60 entries were received and these were displayed at a Gala event at the Windsor Branch Library. Judging was done by graphic artist Mark Oakley. (At time of writing, the art was still available on the teen portion of our website, and AVRL has utilized one entry as a logo for its Animanga Club.)

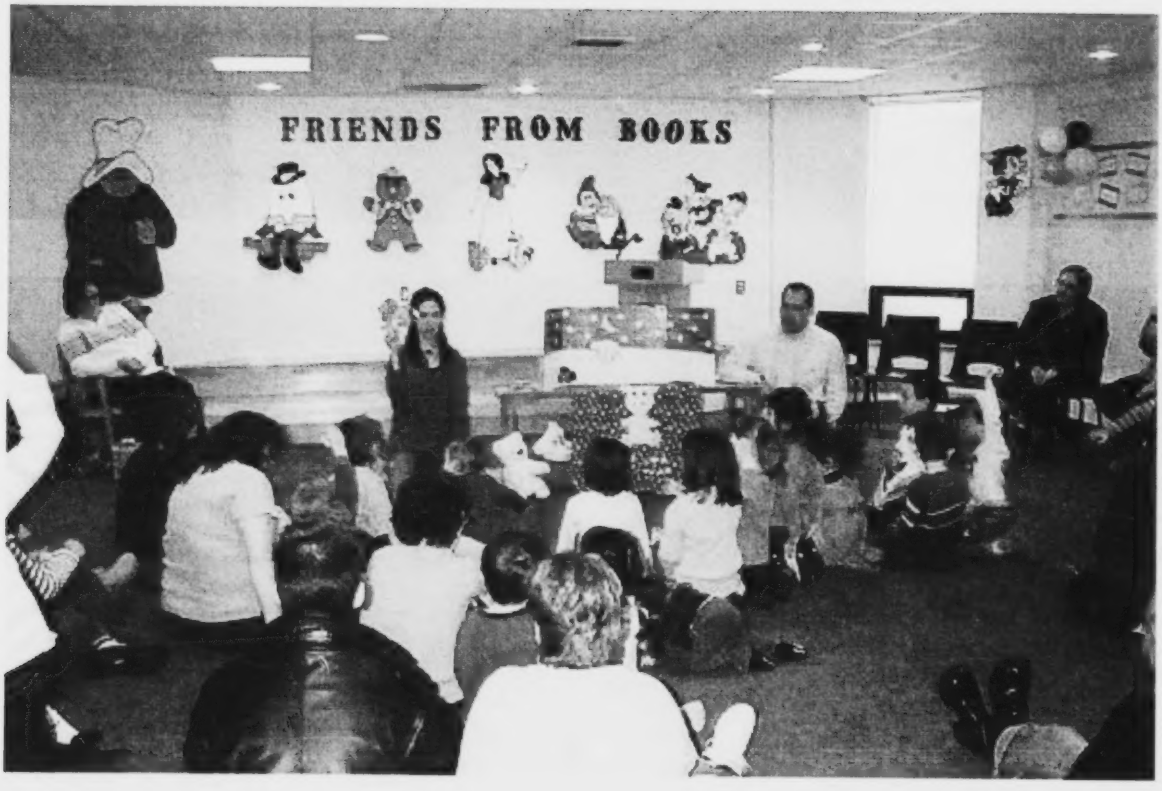
Throughout the fall, Wolfville Branch Library offered BookGuys Night once a week. This provided an environment which encouraged dads, grand-dads, uncles, brothers, etc. to spend an hour or so with the special little boy in their lives, reading books or playing games. Incentives such as free Acadia football tickets, a golf pass, and other prizes were offered as a draw during registration. A monthly Family Storytime at the Bridgetown Library will continue during the winter. This takes place during the evening and entire families are encouraged to attend. Pajamas are welcome. Other events included Children's Art workshops sponsored by the Canadian Federation of University Women in November with artist and illustrator Doretta Groenendyk, and a "Zine" workshop for 9-12 year olds at the Windsor Branch Library, facilitated by writer Joanne Jefferson.

Branch managers and reference staff attended a workshop session dealing with World Book Online. This information will help staff use World Book to full advantage and promote the service to library users.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

Family Literacy Day

On January 29, CBRL celebrated Family Literacy Day with the help of Family Place Resource Centre and the Adult Learning Association of Cape Breton County. The event started with the Family Literacy Day Proclamation being read by Sydney's Deputy Mayor and Library Board Member Claire Detheridge. Following the Proclamation were stories shared by guests Blair Hill and Kathy Milburn from the Family Place Resource Centre, Constable MacGillvray and local music teacher Donalda Wescott. They warmed up the crowd for songs and rhymes with Library Assistant Bev McGee - storysacks, crafts, and a computer activity for children 6+ were also on the afternoon agenda. The day finished with cake and a prize draw of donations from local businesses. Over 100 people filled the library, on what is normally a quiet Sunday afternoon (when the branch is usually closed). Everyone involved agreed that it was a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



Kathy Milburn and Blair Hill from the Family Place Resource Centre share a Storysack On Family Literacy Day.

Winter/Spring 2006 Adult Information Sessions at the McConnell Library began with an evening of music with the spiritual / gospel choir 'The Inspirational Singers' on February 9th. The following week's program was a discussion by retired steelworkers and Sydney Steel Museum Society board members John Murphy and Sydney Slaven on the steel making process and the cultural impact that the steel industry has had on Cape Breton Island. Both programs drew more than thirty people.

On Saturday February 18, Story Time at the McConnell library was pleased to have two special guests - Diane Lewis, Chair of the SPCA Education Committee, and a little puppy that Diane brought with her from Sydney's SPCA. Diane shared animal stories that demonstrated responsible pet care and compassion for our animal friends.

Upcoming programs include an author reading with Lesley Crewe who has recently published her first novel, Relative Happiness. Crewe's debut novel is quickly gathering praise among readers and the library is very excited to have her discuss her novel on April 18. For lovers of local wildlife, the library has scheduled a program on Cape Breton birds - guest speaker Cathy Murrant will show photos gathered while birding around the island. At the end of March, fishing enthusiast Gordon MacKinnon will give a talk on fly-tying. Programs can be found on the website at www.cbrl.ca.

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

Libraries and Literacy - Adult Literacy and Essential Skills Summit

Youth services administrator Lynda Marsh and family literacy project coordinator Michelle Bowden were among 132 invited participants in the day long summit, hosted by the Department of Education on January 19. Lynda was also a member of the advisory committee assisting the organizers in developing the objectives and format of the summit. The findings of an international survey on adult literacy and skills were reviewed and then participants worked to identify collaborative approaches to lifelong learning, essential skills development, and the creation of a skilled workforce. Survey findings highlight the need for action, e.g. literacy skill level 3 is needed to participate in a knowledge-based economy, but the literacy skill level of 1 in 3 Nova Scotians (age 16 and up) is either level 1 or 2.

Bass River Pilot Programs

This community is the site of two pilot programs connected with literacy and the library's satellite site is poised to support the participants wherever possible. On January 9, Lynda Marsh attended the open house for Side by Side, a family learning program delivered by the Colchester Adult Learning Association. Bass River Elementary School hosts one of 20 pre-primary program centres being tested by the Department of Education in rural communities that are at a distance from day care and preschool programs. The library will be adjusting the satellite site's open hours so that parents picking up their pre-schoolers in the afternoon will be able to visit and borrow books. Lynda Marsh and library director Janet Pelley were pleased to attend the provincial celebration of Family Literacy Day held in Bass River on January 28 and they promoted the library through means of a conversation with participants and a display. Word spread quickly through the crowd that the library was giving away books. Children, parents, and grandparents had fun making their choice. Thanks go to the Adopt-a-Library Literacy program and Scholastic Books for the gifts.

Maitland Site

As with the other satellites, the Maitland site is located in the local school to take advantage of the high speed Internet connection. The school principal and a couple of her teachers are among CEHRL's regular borrowers. Michelle Bowden represented CEHRL in the school's family literacy day event on January 27. Library events to mark Family Literacy Day included a display at the Truro Mall, a puppet show in Stewiacke, people of all ages playing Scrabble® for literacy in Truro, and the launch of the winter reading program at all branches.

Libraries and Teens

Five members of BLAST, the teen friends of the library in Truro, gave a very impressive reader's theatre performance of the *Christmas Truce*. To everyone's delight, three veterans from the Colchester Legion presented the teens with commemorative pins and together they posed for a group photo. BLAST has completed its video, A Teen's-Eye View of Truro, Nova Scotia. Following a special screening for the library board, a copy will be sent to a citizenship class in Truro, England and to a library teen group in Mosman Park (a suburb of Perth) in Australia. Mayor Mills of "our" Truro will be presented with a copy.

Performers and three members of an appreciative audience following a reader's theatre performance of the *Christmas Truce* at the Truro library, December 14, 2005

Book Buddies Program

Parents are telling staff that the book buddies program (which matches teen volunteers with reluctant readers in grades primary to 4 for weekly reading and fun) is helping to change lives. An example, reported by teen programming coordinator, Brenda Peters, follows:

"Little Buddy, age 6, was identified by his mother as having ADHD when he entered the Fall 2005 Book Buddies program. Initially, he showed no interest in books, would not make eye contact and refused to participate in group activities. Each week he was exposed to different types of books and word activities in an effort to find something to interest him. He gradually began to participate in choosing his reading materials and to show some interest in looking at those books with his Big Buddy. At week 6, his mother reported that her son's teacher has noticed a positive difference in his interest in language activities. He also talks about the Book Buddies program at home and he runs straight to the car (without coat or shoes!) when she tells him that it's time for Book Buddies".

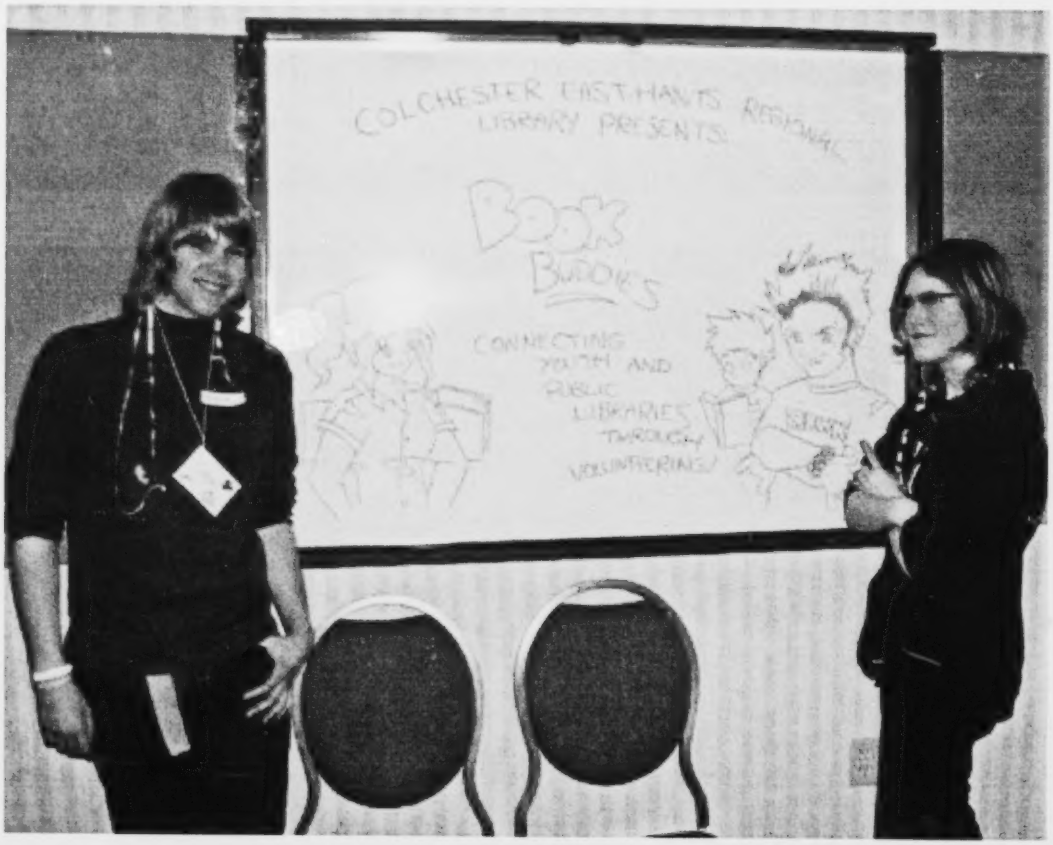
For the big buddies, there is the rewarding experience of helping others and the opportunity to earn volunteer hours for their portfolios. For one big buddy, the program has encouraged his talents as a writer too – this winter, with the help of illustrator Rebecca MacInnes, a teen staff member in Truro and volunteer, Nathan Swan created the storybook, *Ziggy at School*. Similar collaborations produced *Ziggy, Lost and Found* during the summer and *Ziggy and the Pie-Rats* in the fall. Program participants each received a copy of the story they helped to create. Also, just before Christmas, the library started to sell the storybooks ($1 each). To date, 105 copies have been sold! In case you're wondering, Ziggy is an adventurous cat!

Library Connections

At the invitation of the organizers, HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development, Lynda Marsh and teen programming staff Brenda Peters (coordinator) and Pam Eakin (assistant) attended a day long session for selected staff at Halifax Public Libraries. Participants were very interested in learning about CEHRL's book buddies program and activities for teens.

ReGeneration Symposium

Brenda, Pam, and the creators of the Ziggy books, Nathan and Rebecca, attended HeartWood's ReGeneration Symposium on community youth development at the Oak Island Resort March 24 - 26. The CEHRL team conducted a workshop, "Buddies and Books", that gave participants a taste of its 8-week Book Buddies program. The 1.5-hour hands-on session showcased Rebecca and Nathan's talents for illustrating and writing respectively. The workshop was well received and both teens made contacts for future opportunities to utilize their skills. Brenda reported, "We came away from the symposium with ideas that will enable more input from youth along with more direct involvement in planning and decision making to create a more meaningful relationship between youth, the public library, and the community."



Nathan Swan and Rebecca MacInnes, creators of the "Ziggy books", during their workshop at HeartWood's ReGeneration Symposium at the Oak Island Resort, March 25, 2006

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

Once again CURL held its annual Food for Fines program throughout December. This program allows patrons to bring in non-perishable food items in order to clear overdue fines. One food item was the

equivalent of one overdue fine. All food is donated to a local food bank or church organization. 741 items of food were donated to various agencies around the county and just over $1,000 worth of fines were pardoned.

The Four Fathers Memorial Library in Amherst has started a Classic Movie Club this winter. The Movie Club is showing classic movies from the 1940s -1960s once a month and so far response from the public has been very favourable. Movies are shown on a big screen by hooking a DVD player directly into a multimedia projector to create a theatre experience. Public performance rights have been licensed through Audio Cine Films. Upcoming movies include "The Graduate", and "Breakfast at Tiffany's".

Several events were held in all branches in celebration of Family Literacy Day and the Amherst Library participated in the Town of Amherst's Winterfest activities.

Pictured here are kids making penguins from pop bottles at the Penguinpalooza program.

The Chilton's automotive repair database has proven to be popular with the public and a great way to get non-users to use the library. Promotional magnets were made for mechanics to stick on their toolboxes and these magnets have been distributed throughout Cumberland County. As a result, several new users have decided the library has something for them after all and registered for a card so they could use the database.

All branches are now equipped with receipt printers that allow a patron to have a receipt that lists all items checked out during a visit as well as when these items are due. Printed receipts eliminate the need for stickers that cover important information on the back of books and DVDs. A gradual change from stamping date due on materials to just receipts is taking place but as of February 28, 2006, all stamping of items ended.

The library's collection of audio-books on CD is continuing to expand and will now be reaching some new audiences. A starter collection of items for children and teens has been purchased. The fifty new titles include classics such as the *Narnia* series, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, in addition to more current titles such as *Bunnicula* and *As well as Winn Dixie*. For teens, the titles range from *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* to the current fantasy hit, *Eldest*.

Plans are underway for the 3rd annual "Spread the Word" Writers' Café in conjunction with the Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading (CANU) a local adult literacy group. Donna Morrissey, Carol Bruneau, Joan Baxter, and Lesley Crewe will be the featured authors. The event will be held on May 13 and hosted by Global television's Duane Lowe.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

The 4th annual Share a Book fundraiser raised $11,408.32 this year thanks in great part to individual donors, local businesses, organizations and corporate sponsor, EnCana Corporation. EnCana donated an initial $3,000 and matched a further $4,204.16 in donations. The amount raised is significant, increasing the materials budget for the coming 12 months by an additional 15% above the library's core budget. Radio sponsor 101.5 The Hawk again contributed to the success of the campaign by providing daily announcements at a discounted rate.

ECRL staff participated in the annual Judique Christmas Parade. Mary Landry, Public Services Librarian, and Port Hawkesbury Library Assistant Susan Brooks-Frank were on hand to pass out treats and Libr@ry Links schedules to the many families they passed along the parade route. Judique is one of 9 Libr@ry Links sites visited by library mobile rural services staff on a monthly or bi-monthly schedule.

Susan Brooks-Frank decorates the van for the Judique Christmas Parade.

The Canso Library annually presents a Christmas story time that draws dozens of children and their parents to the event. On hand this year with Santa was Canso's "Elf" and Library Assistant, Janet Delorey.

Halifax Public Libraries (HPL)

African Heritage Month

Halifax Public Libraries celebrated its 22nd annual African Heritage Month with an exciting lineup of special programs and events. Throughout February, many branches featured films, workshops, music and readings focusing on African history and culture. Whether people were interested in African drumming, Caribbean cuisine, gospel music or hip hop dancing, they were able to find it all at the Library during African Heritage Month.

Halifax Public Libraries Go Wireless

All branches of the Halifax Public Libraries system are now offering free wireless Internet access. Library users with a Halifax Public Libraries card can bring their own wireless-enabled laptops and handheld devices to access the Internet in the library, where the online catalogue and research databases serve the public.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

Author, war correspondent, editor and publisher of *Esprit de Corps*, Scott Taylor was in the New Glasgow Library in February to discuss his book, *Spinning on the Axis of Evil: America's War in Iraq*. Taylor recounted his experiences as an independent reporter in the former Yugoslavia and Iraq, where he was abducted and tortured for five days as an alleged spy. Impressed with the large audience and number of his books that were purchased, Taylor plans to return to PARL with the publication of his next book and enjoy some more Nova Scotian hospitality.

Writer In Residence, Anne Simpson, continues to have an impact on the writers of Pictou and Antigonish Counties while approaching the end of her tenure. To date, she has been in great demand for public appearances, readings, private consultation and mentorship, and creative writing workshops. Plans for next year's writer, Harry Thurston, are underway with an application through the Canada Council for the Arts. Primarily a non-fiction writer, Thurston's experience as a columnist and environmentalist is expected to appeal to a new segment of the region's writers while still providing basic services. PARL will be sponsoring an appearance by author, broadcaster, and environmentalist, Dr. David Suzuki on June 12, 2006. Suzuki will be touring in support of his latest book, *Dr. David Suzuki: An Autobiography*. Due to the anticipation of a large audience, the event will be held at the Stellarton Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College. While there will be no admission fee or donations, admission tickets will be available at PARL headquarters and select branches in mid-May.

In November, 2005, PARL's Chief Librarian, Eric Stackhouse, attended the Library Association of Ireland's conference in Ennis, Ireland. As keynote speaker, Stackhouse spoke on innovation in public libraries. To complement his address, he also facilitated a day-long workshop on the same topic with members of Clare County Library and PARL staff.

With the new library catalogue hosted at Provincial Library going live in October 2005, PARL took the opportunity to simultaneously launch an updated homepage. Featuring an uncluttered interface, a service and program feature, and access to the catalogue front and center, the revisions will meet the demands of increased online usage and interaction with surrounding communities.

On the last Monday in each month, the New Glasgow Public Library hosts the Seniors' Café program, which offers programming for senior patrons and which features guest speakers, light refreshments, and full access to all library services. To try something new and help break up the winter season, library and headquarters staff recently hosted a fashion show using clothing supplied by ten local clothing retailers. Seven models walked an imaginary catwalk while karaoke host, Terry Riley, supplied running commentary on the retailers and their clothing. As a spin-off from this program, the seniors have requested another fashion show for next October to coincide with the new winter line up of clothes and a karaoke program with Riley.

Newfoundland author Donna Morrissey recently read from her latest novel, *Sylvanus Now*, to a large afternoon crowd in the New Glasgow Public Library. Thanks to a major re-arranging of library fixtures to create more seating space, this branch is now able to involve more patrons by holding medium sized programs right in the library. Usually these events would be held in the second-floor

program room.

Library patron Amelia Fraser models an authentic bathing costume, circa 1890, for the audience of the New Glasgow Library's first Seniors' Café fashion show.

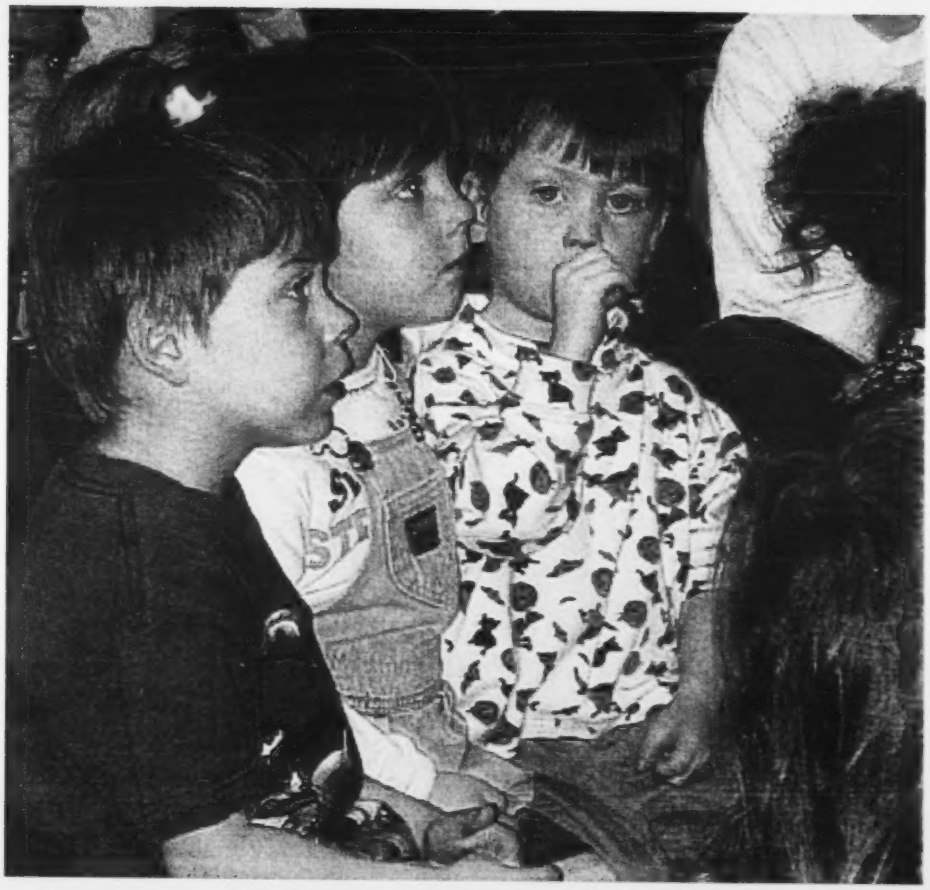
South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

Accentuate the Positive!

The positives in this instance are one great programmer, a willing staff and publicity to over 26,000 homes. The result is dozens of programs at the Library for babies to seniors and many ages in between. In September, SSRL entered into a Job Creation Partnership Project with Service Canada, enabling SSRL to hire former employee Heather Stevens as Library Programmer for one year. That added capacity combined with the inclusion of library programs in a co-operative recreation guide distributed throughout Lunenburg County, helped push program attendance through the roof! Heather conducts regular story times, Tale Spinners (our early literacy program), and a new program called Silly Stuff, which honours underwear, body parts, and gooey things. Other programs include special readings of Curious George, The Chronicles of Narnia and Harry Potter, trivia contests and seasonal events. Adult programs include our popular Passion series, Upstairs at the Library, author readings, Seniors' Library Café, computer skills training for seniors, classic movie night, family movie night and regular volunteer computer tutors. Add to the mix special events such as March Break activities (Teddy Bears' picnics, hair braiding workshops, St. Patrick's Day Ceilidh, Harry Potter Scavenger Hunts and Our Canadian Girls Parties) and our library branches are spilling over with people!

Young listeners enjoy the

Read To Me Jamboree in Lunenburg in October 2005.



Samantha and Darby Easy

won the Harry Potter Trivia Contest held at the Bridgewater Library in November 2005.

New Library for Bridgewater and Area

The Library Board continues to strive for a new Branch to serve Bridgewater and the surrounding areas. To that end, the Bridgewater Town Council has agreed to fund a large portion of a planning study to assess the suitability of a former retail outlet as a new library / Library Headquarters within the Town. The RFP closes on March 2nd. The winning bidder should be able to start the study by early April.

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

Adopt-a-Book campaign

Trivia expert John MacIntyre (*The Nova Scotia Book of Everything*) will be in Yarmouth, April 4, for the launch of Western Counties Regional Library's sixth biennial Adopt-a-Book fundraiser. The campaign launch will take place in Yarmouth with the Fools Day Trivia Challenge. The Adopt-a-Book campaign will run from April 4 to June 4. This year the Adopt-a-Book Challenge will once again be a feature, providing an incentive for individuals and groups to increase the power of their donations by challenging others to contribute. The winner will gain custody of campaign mascot Lotta Bookz for a year and their name will be engraved on the Adopt-a-Book plaque. The library will again be joined by CJLS Radio in promoting this campaign. The radio station's support will be critical, keeping the campaign before the public for its two-month duration.

Displays of books that will be available for purchase are now being prepared for each branch. In addition, this year donors will have the option of purchasing books for adoption at Amazon.com and several local stores. If donors use the library web site to access the online bookstore when making purchases, the library will not only receive the adopted book, but also 10 percent of the purchase price. Adopt-a-Book has led to more than $100,000 worth of books being adopted. It has allowed the library to maintain its budget for new books and other materials despite the fiscal restraints it has faced in the last decade.

Barrington library nears completion

The Barrington municipal library should be relocated to its new home in May. Barrington's library services coordinator Joanne Head has been working with the contractors throughout the project. "We're all very excited to see the new library taking shape. The community has waited so long and the Friends of the Library group worked so hard we can hardly believe moving day is nearly here," she said.

The Barrington municipal library is taking shape. The new library will be housed in a new municipally-owned community development center that will also be home to a youth services center and a community economic development centre. The regional library has made a commitment to stock the new shelves with a minimum of 1,000 new titles.

Police join forces with library to promote literacy

The RCMP are getting young readers involved in Western Counties Regional Library's newest reading programs. "The Read N Ride and Reading Rewards programs are fun ways to motivate children to read," says Joanne Head, the library's coordinator of children's services for the library.

The RCMP in Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties are assisting the library at all 10 of its branches in promoting the programs throughout the region's elementary schools. For those areas participating in the Read N Ride program, the draw winner is picked up at home and driven to school by the RCMP. Every regional detachment is part of the Read N Ride program except for the areas served by the Yarmouth and Shelburne RCMP town detachments. "Sirens will blare and lights will flash to herald the arrival of our

monthly reading champion at school," Head adds. In the towns of Shelburne and Yarmouth, the RCMP members will come to school to present draw winners with a certificate and reading prize. Elementary schools throughout the region are partnering in this campaign.

Read n' Ride winner Grade 1 student Tristan White is greeted by students at Weymouth Elementary School after getting a ride to school in an RCMP cruiser.

Food for fines program to aid area food banks

Library patrons at Western Counties Regional Library can trade food for overdue fines during the month of March. The library has instituted a region-wide program tied to donations of non-perishable food items for food banks. For every item of food donated to the library, up to $5 in overdue fines will be forgiven. Library branches throughout Yarmouth, Shelburne and Digby counties will collect the food for the food banks that serve their areas. Regional library director Trudy Amirault says the program serves two purposes. March is a difficult month, for food banks and for people having to pay power and oil bills. "We can give our patrons a break and at the same time help replenish area food banks' dwindling supplies," she said.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY (SIM)

Dr Louise Spiteri, Associate Professor in the School of Information Management at Dalhousie University, has been awarded a $9000 grant for 2006 from the Library and Information Science Research Grant Program of the Online Computer Library Centre (Dublin, OH) and the Association for Library and Information Science Education. Dr Spiteri's project, "The Use of Collaborative Tagging in Public Library Catalogues," examines leading-edge methods by which members of the public might enhance their information seeking and information organization. In recent years, significant

developments have occurred in the creation of customizable user features in publicly-accessible catalogues and inventories. These features offer clients the opportunity to customize their own web page and to store items of interest to them. Client participation in these interfaces, however, is largely reactive; clients can select items from the catalogue, but they have little ability to organize and categorize these items in a way that reflects their own needs and language. Collaborative tagging, or folksonomies, allows anyone to freely attach keywords or tags to content.

Professor Vivian Howard, Lecturer in the School of Information Management at Dalhousie, has been honoured by a prestigious new teaching award in the Faculty of Management, financed principally by Nova Scotia businessman, Mr. Bill Black. The awards fit well with a strategic goal of the Faculty of Management to reward superior teaching. The award scheme provides for three awards in the School of Business Administration and two among the other Schools in the Faculty of Management: Information Management, Public Administration and Resource and Environmental Studies. The selection committee included faculty and student representatives and a member of Dalhousie's Centre for Learning and Teaching and members noted the thoroughness of Professor Howard's teaching dossier. She was invited to submit this dossier on the basis of her consistently high ratings in Dalhousie's Student Ratings of Instruction data. Professor Howard teaches: Collections Management; Services and Resources for Young Adults; Services and Resources for Children; Users and Services; and, Information Sources in the Humanities and Social Sciences. In addition to teaching, she is pursuing doctoral studies at the University of Wales at Aberystwyth with a research focus on teen reading.

The Special Libraries Association Student Group of the School of Information Management at Dalhousie University is engaged in a fundraising initiative and is selling 16oz stainless steel travel mugs, featuring Seamus, the mascot of the School of Information Management. The mugs are being sold for $15 ($12 for students) plus $10 to cover shipping costs for out-of-town orders. For more information or to place your order, please contact Jenn Reid, SLA Student Chapter President at j.reid@dal.ca or send your request to:

Special Libraries Association Student Group of Dalhousie
Attn: Jenn Reid
c/o School of Information Management, Dalhousie University
6100 University Ave.
Halifax, NS B3H 3J5

Please include your name, telephone number, email address, and shipping address with your order, and make cheques payable to the SLA Student Group of Dalhousie.

NEWS FROM THE NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARY & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (LIT)

On January 19, 2006, a reception was held for the first Canadian Library Association Student Chapter for a library technician program in Canada – the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Institute of Technology campus Canadian Library Association Student Chapter (NSCCIT CLASC). Students from Dalhousie University's CLA Student Chapter were also in attendance as well as invited guests. Membership is restricted to students currently enrolled in the NSCCIT Library & Information

Technology program and holding CLA membership.

The current NSCCIT executive includes, from left to right : Allison Daigle, Treasurer; Anne Gregory, President; Courtney Bayne, Secretary and Jocelyn Covert, Vice President.

Work Placement Account by a Student in the NSCC in the LIT Technology program

"A Month in the Life of Keshen Goodman" by Jennifer MacIsaac

As a student of the Nova Scotia Community College in the Library and Information Technology program, I saw my winter work placement as an opportunity to peek into the soul of the Keshen Goodman Library. For three weeks in January, I was able to job shadow and participate in every service of our library. The Keshen Goodman Library is not only unique in architectural design, but everywhere you turn, staff are smiling while they teach and learn. I was also able to experience the behind-the-scenes world of the Technical Services Department in Lower Sackville. Although it is the life-line for Halifax Public Libraries (HPL), acquiring, cataloguing and processing books, DVDs and CDs, it is not everyone's "cup of tea", but I drank it up! Staff take pride in their work even though many of them never reach the front lines and interact with the public.

Back at Keshen Goodman, I learned some of the magic that a public library in an ever-expanding urban community performs. The community's needs are ever-changing as are the resources and services the library provides. First I was plunged into the circulation department where staff are the backbone of the library. Even with my background in library studies, at first, I wondered how vital is this service? This wonderful team performs a multitude of tasks that ensure that the library materials you seek are where they are supposed to be. What good would this institution be to its community if you couldn't access the knowledge you sought? So yes, the circulation team is vital to every other service the library provides.

What if you don't know exactly what you are looking for? Or you do, but don't know how to find it? Next, I worked on the front line of the library at the information desk. Believe me, you can ask these investigators almost anything and they will quickly and accurately set you on the right path. They have at their disposal an online catalogue of HPL materials, a print reference collection, online databases, and the worldwide web. Beyond these amazing services, I also witnessed a few of the programs that Keshen Goodman offers. For families with youngsters, there are pre-registered reading and social programs for newborns to school aged children. Keshen Goodman offers "Baby's First Books", "Tales for Tots", "Babies Playtime", and "Preschool Family Drop-in". Enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff lead sessions where little ones learn to love to read, make friends, and play. As an added bonus, moms and dads can get together and exchange ideas, browse displays of books to encourage their children to read, and just relax.

Teens from Halifax West High School nearby are often seen working and playing on the computers behind the information desk and raiding the young adult section of the collection. They are also welcome to express their unique talents at programs such as "Open Mic Nite" and "Gamerz Night". While I could not attend these evening programs, I was told that they are a hit with the younger crowd attracting local talent, such as Jordan Croucher and Keshen Goodman's own Tracy Williams. In my final week at Keshen Goodman, I was able to attend a Computer Basics course that was just beginning. Members of the community seemed to be grateful to have a comfortable environment with capable teachers to learn the basics of technology. In addition, the library was hosting a few lectures from local university professors. I was able to see that the Keshen Goodman Library is an integral member of Halifax's growing community and is vital in fostering its cultural growth.

Jennifer MacIsaac carried out her LIT work placement at Keshen Goodman Library in January 2006 and loved every minute of it.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Staff Notes

Jennifer Evans was appointed Director, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, in September, 2005. She started her library career as a School Librarian in Yarmouth; after spending 4 years in school libraries, she moved to public library work with the former Halifax City Regional Library as a Children's Librarian. Jennifer joined management in the mid 90s, managing first the Captain Spry Library and more recently, the Alderney Gate Library. While at Alderney Gate, she was also Regional Adult Programming Manager for Halifax Public Libraries. By the time Jennifer joined NSPL, she had worked for 15 years in public libraries.

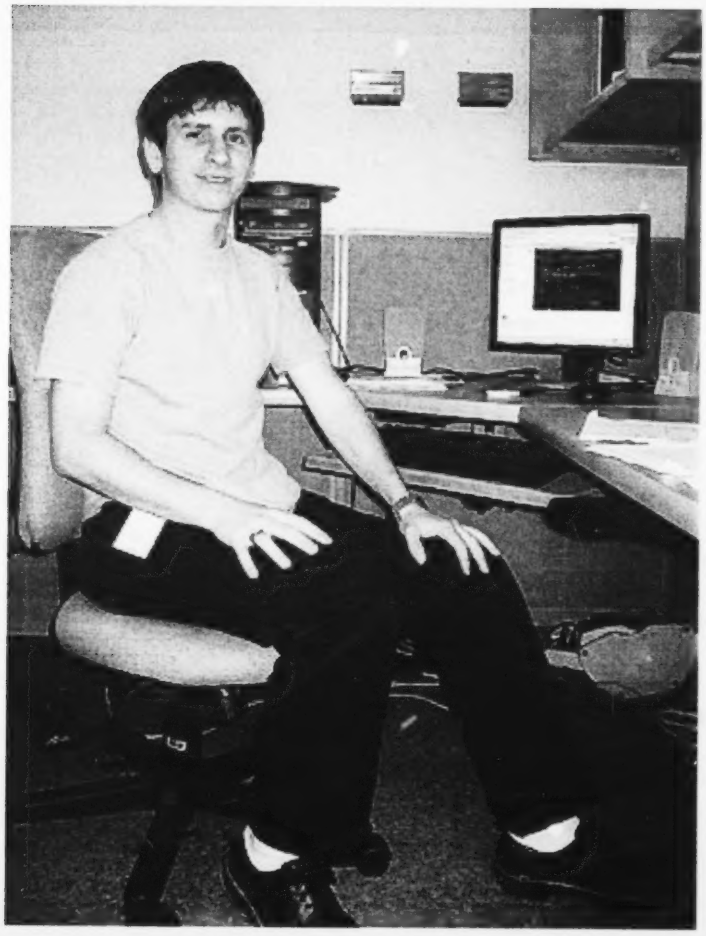
In the past, Jennifer has served on the executive of the Halifax Library Association, was the Chair of the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians in the early 90s, and more recently served on the executive of the Canadian Association of Public Libraries.

Jennifer is a firm believer that public libraries are an institution for the future. As a mother of two girls, she finds it hard to imagine raising children in a town without a public library service. As a reader, she would find it hard to support her mystery-reading habit in a town without a public library. As a public servant, she believes that Nova Scotians deserve strong, dynamic, innovative public libraries and is pleased to have the opportunity to support this belief through her work.

Jennifer Evans, as Director of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, will be leading NSPL through a Strategic Planning process in 2006.

Robert Samson, NcompasS System Administrator, joined Provincial Library in September of 2005, just in time to participate in the live migration to Unicorn. Needless to say, his first few months have been an intense introduction to library applications! Originally from Petit de Grat, Nova Scotia, Robert is a recent graduate of Acadia University where he obtained a degree in Computer Science. Robert brings

experience in a number of areas in the technology field including system administration, web design, programming, technical support and technical training and has an interest in the role of libraries in community development.



Robert Samson, NcompasS System Administrator, is pleased with his transition to the world of libraries and is excited to be a part of the NSPL.

We're Unicorn Now!

NcompasS Consortium libraries migrated to Sirsidynix's Unicorn Integrated Library System in October 2005 - the culmination of a long project which had been delayed by the development of Collection Exchange for Unicorn. Regional libraries went over-the-top to maintain services to patrons during the transition from the old MultiLIS system to Unicorn, closing only over a weekend, during which staff were busy updating the new Sirsi system with transactions captured during the previous week of system downtime. Congratulations to all those who planned and participated in this major undertaking.

Patrons and staff alike are pleased with the look and feel of the new iBistro OPAC, with its clean displays and enriched content - covers, reviews and excerpts - providing added value.

NcompasS libraries will soon have a chance to meet with other Unicorn users and share experiences. The Sirsi Northeast Regional Users Group, composed of Sirsi libraries in the US and Canada, will hold

its annual conference at Mount Allison University in June 2006.

Training Notes

World Book Online encyclopedia and ChiltonLibrary.com

Two new databases have recently become available to patrons at public libraries in Nova Scotia, World Book Online encyclopedia and ChiltonLibrary.com, an automotive repair information database from Thomson Gale. These are two of the databases that the public libraries now subscribe to as a consortium. Any Nova Scotian with a public library card can access the resources at home, at school, at work, or at their local library. A trainer for World Book Online visited seven of the regional libraries last fall to provide training sessions on this database to staff. ChiltonLibrary.com is part of the InfoTrac system which the public libraries already use to access other Thomson Gale company databases. Plans are underway to promote the availability of these databases to the public.

Teleconferences hosted by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL)

Last fall the Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL) hosted Canadian Library Association (CLA) teleconferences on a variety of interesting topics - "12 Habits for Highly Effective Librarians", "Evidence Based Library and Information Practice", "Expanding Library Horizons through Alternative Funding Sources", "Knowledge Management Synergy - An Integration of People, Process and Technology" and "Writing for Publication".

NSPL is hosting the 2005/06 College of DuPage satellite teleconferences. There was a lot of interest in the first one "Google and Your Patrons," held on November 18, 2005. This teleconference was attended by thirty-nine library staff from public, university, school, and special libraries as well as students from the School of Information Management and the library technician program at the Community College. Steven Bell, Director of the Paul J. Gutman Library at Philadelphia University and Adjunct Professor at the Drexel University College of Information Science and Technology discussed Google's impact on libraries and the library worker's role in connecting users to high quality information in the age of "Googleization." Following the broadcast, Gwen MacNairn, Computer Science Librarian, Killam Library, Dalhousie University and Kelli Wooshue, a Reference Librarian from Halifax Public Libraries, spoke about Google's effect in their libraries.

On February 3, 2006 another satellite teleconference called, "Always a River, Sometimes a Library" took place. Using the Mississippi River as a metaphor for patron behavior Rick Anderson, Director of Resource Acquisition at the University of Nevada, discussed the three ways the library profession is broken, and the four ways to fix it as well as giving the audience new and useful ways to think about their patrons. Following the broadcast, Michelle Paon, Coordinator of the Learning Commons, Killam Library, Dalhousie University, told participants about the Learning Commons, a new way to adapt university library service to its patrons' changing needs.

On February 22, 2006, NSPL hosted CLA's "Access for All! Understanding and Providing Library Services for People with Print Disabilities". This teleconference was presented by Rosemary Griebel, Manager of Calgary Public Library's Diversity Services with assistance from Shelagh Paterson of the CNIB Library.

Following are upcoming College of DuPage teleconferences:

- Serving Immigrant Populations (Soaring to Excellence 2006 series): A Library Prototype for Diversity,

April 7th
- Google Book: Its Impact on Scholarship and Libraries (Library Challenges & Opportunities 2006 series): April 28th

See the College of DuPage Library Learning Network website at http://www.dupagepress.com/COD/index.php?id=183 for details. Advance notices and invitations for registration will be sent out.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

Marie DeYoung Named 2005 Recipient of the Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership

Marie DeYoung, Director of Library Services and Online Learning at the Nova Scotia Community College, was named the 2005 recipient of the Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership and she received the award on October 1, 2005 during the annual conference of the Nova Scotia Library Association. The Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership was established to honor leadership in the Nova Scotia library community and is given by the Nova Scotia Library Association for distinguished contributions to the promotion and development of library service in the province. The award is named for Dr. Norman Horrocks, Professor Emeritus at the Dalhousie School of Information Management and an internationally known library educator, writer and editor.

Marie has worked in libraries continually since 1974. Her positions have included the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. In 1998, she moved to the Nova Scotia Community College and within two years she had organized the libraries into a system and added six new campus libraries. Under her direction, the NSCC library system has been integrated into the Novanet consortium of academic libraries. She served as Chair of Novanet in 2004 and was instrumental in steering the process of acquiring a new integrated library system for the ten member libraries.

As NSLA president Trudy Amirault said in her presentation of the award, Marie DeYoung has played an active role in many library associations, including the Canadian Library Association, the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services and the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries. She has served as a mentor to her staff, colleagues and library school students. Trudy said Marie has brought every library in which she worked into its rightful place at the heart of its organization.

In addition to the Horrocks Award, DeYoung has been recognized for her leadership by other library organizations. CASLIS, the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services, presented her with its Award for Special Librarianship in Canada in 1996. In 2003 she received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the School of Information Management at Dalhousie University.

Adult Learning Week (ALW) in Nova Scotia: April 3-9, 2006

The Nova Scotia Provincial Library and Learning Resources & Technology, Department of Education, are taking part in Adult Learning Week in Nova Scotia, being held April 3-9, 2006. The ALW has been moved from the fall to the spring for the first time this year, and it will be celebrated in the spring on an annual basis from now on. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library supports public libraries in their lifelong

learning and literacy roles. Learning Resources and Technology (LRT) provides professional development opportunities for educators at the district level. The Kempt Road Quiz will take place from 11.00 a.m. to noon on April 6. Invites will be sent to all building staff. The emphasis on the questions will be related to adult learning and libraries, with a sprinkling of quirky questions. Everyone who takes part in the quiz will be presented with a certificate of participation, and both the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and Learning Resources and Technology will receive a certification designed to recognize partners' efforts to promote lifelong learning with this activity. The complete schedule of events (both public and institutional-wide) is posted on the Department of Education's website at http://www.ednet.ns.ca/pdfdocs/adult_learning_week/schedule.pdf.

Ontario Library Association's Super Conference, Toronto, January 2006

Communicating on Purpose: Bridging the Gap

Managers/Supervisors and staff often view things differently and the implications for this can affect how easily changes are implemented in the public library. Change is important and one of the main obstacles in implementing change is staff resistance. A study conducting by The Mentor Group in Ontario indicated that the majority of staff in public libraries are introverted and fall into one of two groups, either supporters or controllers. Management staff on the other hand are usually extroverted types which can be either talkers or doers. "Communicating on purpose" means knowing your own communication style whether you are staff or management. If you understand your style you can take this into consideration and take the audience's behavior style into consideration when you communicate. Choose your communication style on purpose and aim to choose an assertive style over a style that is passive or aggressive.

The Mentor Group was hired at Pickering Public Library because of resistance from Pickering Public Library staff in response to change and specifically with the implementation of a roving readers advisory model which was a service option that management felt the community needed. This change was not welcomed internally by staff and this was causing problems. The Mentor Group examined the issues at this library and found that management and staff had opposite communication styles. Management reported that staff were not assertive and were too detail oriented and could not see the big picture (an introverted style). Staff reported that management implemented change without enough input from staff and they did not provide enough detail (an extroverted style).

Training provided by The Mentor Group was extremely beneficial. Managers have learned to communicate in a number of ways - using a number of styles and mediums in order to connect with everybody. Pickering Public Library has also implemented a new training plan which places much more emphasis on strong communication skills.

"Libraries Helping Libraries - Municipal and First Nation Libraries, Two Years Later"

While Mary Landry was at OLA attending The Partnership meetings on behalf of the Nova Scotia Library Association in February, she learned about another "Partership"by attending a session called "Libraries Helping Libraries - Municipal and First Nation Libraries, Two Years Later". A panel discussed their experiences partnering in what is termed "Municipal" and "First Nations" libraries. Library Service coordination in Northern Ontario was featured, and Mary learned why these Partnerships were significant.

Currently, there are 49 First Nation communities with libraries throughout Northern Ontario, but they

are not in all communities. The First Nations Library Service is a distinct division within the Ontario Library Service North. There is an excellent background provided in the 2004 Strategic Plan document, http://www.olsn.ca/firstnations-strategic-plan.php. The essential point made early in the discussion was that these are partnerships of equals. Economics or remoteness do not create a power imbalance. Each partner's strengths are identified in order to determine what services can be exchanged to make it work.

There are two Partnerships currently, one between the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Public Library and the Pickering Public Library, which has existed for two years; and a newer one between the Saugeen First Nation Public Library and the Clearwater Public Library. Partnerships are as flexible as the individuals, their needs and strengths. It can involve donations or exchanges of furniture, books, programming and publicity. Exchanging staff expertise and developing peer support networks are another valuable aspect of the relationship. A partner ListServ was developed to extend the communication.

Some examples of the programming outcomes: an "electronic pen-pals" network is being tried at the Christian Island Library; this summer at Clearview, the "Quest for Heroes" theme will develop a First Nations aspect thanks to their partnership.

Listening to the panel, I recognized geographic, budget and service issues similar to those many public libraries face in a rural setting in Nova Scotia. Panelists said that what made the relationships work was a desire to ensure everyone has access to library services, to balance any areas of excess and need within the library communities, to empower staff to keep re-inventing the relationships so that there is always a new opportunity to benefit the public and staff.

Document samples from this session included a 4-party Pilot Project Agreement, a proposal for a collection enhancement strategy, collection development profile, a How-To guide to creating this profile, press releases and journal articles. Anyone is welcome to email mlandry@nsme.library.ns.ca for a copy.

Two relevant links: First Nations Public Library Week, February – see http://www.sols.org/FNPLW/2006/index.htm

First Nations' Librarians' Conference, May 2006 – see www.olsn.ca/downloads/2006-registration-kits/FN_registration_2006.pdf

2006 Atlantic Book Awards Ceremony

The 2006 Atlantic Book Awards Ceremony will take place on April 28, at the Alderney Gate Theatre, in Dartmouth. It includes 10 different book award prizes (including the $10,000 Thomas Head Raddall Prize for Fiction), and the Mayor's Awards for Cultural Achievement in Literature and Excellence in Illustration. The HRM poet laureateship is a 4-year term with Lori Nelson Glenn taking the position last year.

There will be readings, launches and book events across the four Atlantic provinces. Also, there will be promotional giveaways on radio (CBC Radio One) and television, as well as an online competition to pick awards winners and win short-listed books. Staff at the Alderney Gate Library are currently constructing the website, so watch for a link on the HPL site.) The awards ceremony itself begins at

4pm and will be hosted by Sue Goyette & Don Connelly. It is open to the public (RSVP to The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia at 902-423-8116 between 10am and 5pm, Monday to Friday).

Hackmatack Award Nominations 2006-2007

The Hackmatack Award ceremony is a celebration of reading and writing shared by the participating children and the nominated authors. Young readers from across the region join the authors of the nominated books to applaud the results of their reading and voting. The 2006 Award Ceremony will be held in Moncton, New Brunswick on April 28, 2006, 10am-12 at the Capitol Theatre. The event is open to the public. Call (902) 424-3774 for details. See http://www.hackmatack.ca/pr16feb06.html for a list of the Hackmatack Award Book Nominations for 2006/2007.

LINKed

This LINKed column explores some useful free sources of fund raising information on the Internet including listings of Canadian grant-making foundations and searchable databases of literature on philanthropy, the foundation world, and the nonprofit sector.

The Canada Revenue Agency Charities Listings at https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/haip/srch/sec/SrchLogin-e?login=true includes both foundations that raise money and foundations that make grants. To get a listing of foundations in Nova Scotia that make grants click on Nova Scotia in the Province field and "B. Private Foundation" in the Designation Field. To display information about a charity click on a charity name, then click on "Registered Charity Information Return" at the bottom of the record. For most charities there will be a list of years that returns are available for the organization. When you click on a year, you will get the return for that year. In the return "Section C. Programs and General Information" has information on the types of grants that grant making organizations have. You can scroll down to section C11 and click on "Gifts to Qualified Donees" for a listing of organizations that the donor made donations to and the amount of the donation. See "Search Tips" on the site for more information on how to search the Charities Listings.

enVision.ca Virtual Resource Centre at http://envision.ca on the Community Services Council of Newfoundland and Labrador web site brings resources for the voluntary sector in Newfoundland and Labrador together in one place. There is a Guide to Funding Sources at http://envision.ca/templates/resources.asp?ID=91. On this page see the listings in "Foundations and other grant making agencies" and "Private Sector Foundations and Companies". Many of the companies and organizations listed here provide grants to groups across Canada.

The John Hodgson Library Online Catalogue at http://nonprofitscan.andornot.com on the Imagine Canada web site has over 6,000 titles that include literature on such topics as corporate responsibility, charitable giving, volunteering, the impact of government policies and regulations on the nonprofit sector, and revenue generating activities of nonprofit organizations. Approximately 80 percent of the titles have links to the full text in PDF or HTML format. At the well designed search page you can search by author, title, subject, keyword, and date of publication and for subject search the popup A-Z list of subjects that you can select from is useful. There are handy search tips at the bottom of the page and you can click on Help for detailed information on how to search the catalogue.

Keep up-to-date on news of the Canadian nonprofit and fundraising sector at the Canadian

FundRaiser web site http://www.canadianfundraiser.com. There you can view the current issue of Canadian FundRaiser eNEWS and search and view the full text of back issues of it at http://www.canadianfundraiser.com/search/index.asp?advanced=yes.

The Literature of the Nonprofit Sector Online at http://lnps.fdncenter.org is produced by the New York based Foundation Center. This database can be freely searched for books, articles, and other resources. There are more than 24,500 bibliographic entries, of which over 65% have abstracts. The full text of articles from several journals is now being added with full text of more journal titles to follow. Topics covered include fundraising, proposal development, charitable giving, company-sponsored foundations, corporate giving, voluntarism and revenue generating activities of nonprofits. At the search page there are lots of options for designing a search and a help page for assistance with this.

Web sites which were featured in previous "Linked" columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column, please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca.

PROFESSIONAL COLUMN

In this issue of the Disseminator, two recent additions to the professional collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send requests via email to inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

Giesecke, Joan and McNeil, Beth - **Fundamentals of library supervision.** Chicago: American Library Association, 2005.
[Call # Prof 023.9 Gie]

The authors present a basic commonsense approach to solving management and supervisory challenges. They utilize techniques and practices to help readers learn basic supervisory and management procedures and offer strategies and tips to handle difficult situations like firing employees and addressing poor performance. Chapters cover communications, how to create a positive working environment, managing teams, recognizing fundamental legal issues and managing meetings.

Gorman, Michael - **Our own selves: more meditations for librarians**. Chicago: American Library Association, 2005. [Call # Prof 020 Gor]

In this book, the author reflects on the many important issues at the heart of the library profession. He affirms the value of librarianship and expounds on the joys that make it unlike any other occupation. The chapters consist of short meditations on particular topics, accompanied by a quotation and a resolution to the issue at hand.

Thanks go to the following contributors:

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Sharon Haley-Mancini, Manager Bedford Public Library
Mary Landry, Public Services Manager, Eastern Counties Regional Library
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